

THE ANSWERS TO TEN QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NOAA CORPS



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration



The NOAA Corps is one of the Nation's seven uniformed services. It combines some aspects of a Naval service life with the scientific mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. This combination provides an opportunity for engineering and science graduates to develop as technical managers and supervisors, while serving their country as commissioned officers. The Corps is especially attractive to men and women who desire travel, a variety of assignments, the responsibility of leadership, and a career of service to their country.

QUESTION

1. Does the NOAA Corps use people with academic backgrounds in engineering, physics, chemistry, math, or biology?

Yes. However, the individual is commissioned not to specialize in one particular field, but to become a scientific manager with marine experience in all areas of NOAA work.

2. Would I have to go to sea as a NOAA Corps officer?

Yes. All Corps officers go to sea for their first assignment which usually lasts about two years. During a career, sea duty accounts for about eight to ten years of an officer's service.

3. What types of things would I do at sea?

In the early stages of your career, you would mostly stand bridge and plotting room watches underway, taking care of the operation of the vessel.

You would also supervise crew members during different phases of the projects and to some extent get involved with the scientific mission.

4. How long would I be at sea at a time?

NOAA's vessels are budgeted for between 180 and 250 days of operation each year depending on the mission. Ships deploy away from home ports for periods of 4 to 8 months during which they report in the project area as often as every 11 days or as little as every 30 days. Port calls last from 2 to 5 days.

5. Are women permitted to join the Corps?

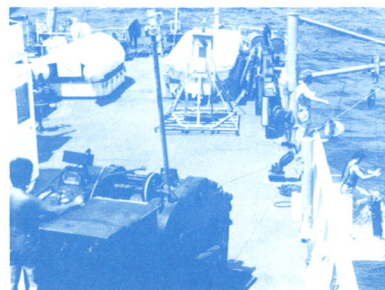
Yes. Additionally, women officers perform the same duties and have the same responsibilities as men officers.

6. Do I have to sign up for a specified hitch?

No. Corps officers serve for unspecified periods and may resign after reasonable notice.

7. What requirements must I meet?

1. Be a U.S. citizen in good health with uncorrected eyesight better than 20/70 in each eye correctable to 20/20 and not be color blind.
2. Have a bachelor's or higher degree in science or engineering with:
 - a. 8 semester (12 quarters) credits in physics to include mechanics, electricity, and light
 - b. Both differential and integral calculus
 - c. 48 semester (72 quarter) credits in NOAA-related science



8. Are there exceptions to these requirements?

Absolutely not!

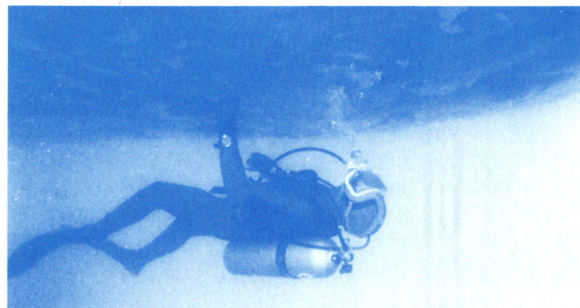
9. Is there an age limit?

No. A person may apply at any age. However, a person's age may have an effect on his or her physical condition which has to be considered in the selection process.

10. How do I apply?

Contact any of the offices listed below for the required personal interview.

More questions?



Write or call any of these NOAA Corps offices:

Recruiting Coordinator
Commissioned Personnel Division
NOAA (NC1)
Rockville, MD 20852
301-443-8616

NOAA Corps Recruiting Officer
NOAA Pacific Marine Center
1801 Fairview Ave., East
Seattle, WA 98102
206-442-7911

NOAA Corps Recruiting Officer
NOAA Atlantic Marine Center
439 West York St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
804-441-6653

Officer-in-Charge
NOAA Officer Training Center
Furuset Hall 3rd Deck
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, NY 11024
516-482-8200 (Ext. 360)



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